

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A loading mechanism in a recording and reproduction apparatus including a tray receiving an information recording medium, the loading mechanism moving the tray between a position at which information is recorded on or reproduced from the information recording medium and a position at which the information recording medium is removable from the tray, the loading mechanism comprising:

a groove part for guiding the tray, the groove part being provided to one of the tray and a holding member holding the tray; and

a projecting part for guiding the tray, the projecting part being provided to the other one of the tray and the holding member, the projecting part fitting with said groove part with clearance~~play~~ being provided therebetween,

wherein an amount of the fitting of said groove part with said projecting part differs between first and second positions, the first position being more distant from a center part of a portion of the tray on which portion the information recording medium is placed than the second position.

2. (Original) The loading mechanism as claimed in claim 1, wherein the amount of the fitting of said groove part with said projecting part is greater at the first position than at the second position.

3. (Original) The loading mechanism as claimed in claim 1, wherein said groove part comprises first and second opposing sides at the first and second positions, respectively; and

an amount of extension of said groove part is greater on the first side than on the second side.

4. (Original) The loading mechanism as claimed in claim 3, wherein said groove part has the first and second sides extending along a direction in which said projecting part projects from the other one of the tray and the holding member.

5. (Original) The loading mechanism as claimed in claim 1, wherein said projecting part comprises first and second surfaces at the first and second positions, respectively; and

the first surface has a greater longitudinal dimension than the second surface.

6. (Original) The loading mechanism as claimed in claim 5, wherein each of the first and second surfaces of said projecting part has the longitudinal dimension in a direction in which said projecting part projects from the other one of the tray and the holding member.

7. (Currently amended) The loading mechanism as claimed in claim 1, wherein said projecting part is provided to the holding member; and

said groove part is provided to the tray so as to ride over and fit with said projecting part with clearanceplay being provided therebetween.

8. (Original) The loading mechanism as claimed in claim 7, further comprising a recess in the holding member,

wherein said groove part comprises first and second opposing sides at the first and second positions, respectively; and

the recess being formed in a position opposite the first side of said groove part.

9. (Currently amended) A recording and reproduction apparatus, comprising:

a tray receiving an information recording medium;

a holding member holding said tray; and

a loading mechanism moving said tray between a position at which information is recorded on or reproduced from the information recording medium and a position at which the information recording medium is removable from said tray,

the loading mechanism comprising:

a groove part for guiding said tray, the groove part being provided to one of said tray and said holding member; and

a projecting part for guiding said tray, the projecting part being provided to the other one of said tray and said holding member, the projecting part fitting with said groove part with movability ~~play~~ being provided therebetween,

wherein an amount of the fitting of said groove part with said projecting part differs between first and second positions, the first position being more distant from a center part of a portion of said tray on which portion the information recording medium is placed than the second position.